

the newsletter

july as xlii volume xvi issue 7



OUR man's
pennsic at
north wood
county park
august 3-5
noon friday-
noon sunday

Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's Keep
and student members of Falcon's Gate

In this issue:

Greetings from the Seneschal	Page 3
From the Chronicler's Quill	Page 4
Anachronist's Bookshelf	Page 5
Making a leather stamp	Page 6-7
Brewers, Vintners, and Cooks	Page 8-9
Ask Alex	Page 10-11
Calendar of Events	Page 12
July moot	Page 13
Newcomers Moot and Garb Wrokshop	Page 14
Officers of the Shire	Page 15

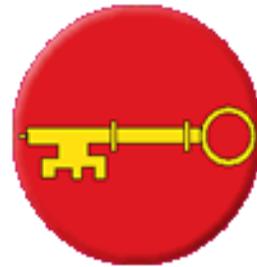
Disclaimer

This is The Mewsletter and it is published on behalf of the Shire of Falcon's Keep and the student members of Falcon's Gate, the central WI chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies. For official publications, contact SCA, Inc., Offices of the Registry, PO Box 36073, Milpitas, CA 95036-0743.

Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

The Mewsletter is published monthly. It is available from Elspeth Christianson, C3808 Heartland Hills Rd, Stratford WI 54484. Written subscriptions are \$1.00 per issue or \$10 per year and electronic subscriptions are \$5. All subscriptions expire in December. Back issues are available for \$1.00 each. Make checks payable to SCA Shire of Falcon's Keep and send to the Exchequer for processing.

Greetings from your Seneschal!



As the spring changes to summer and the outside temperature raises to sometimes unbearable levels, we begin to get ready for our upcoming events. With alot of these events taking place 2 or more hours away I encourage anyone who might have the space to consider car pooling with some one who might not other wise be able to go. I also encourage those who attend events to consider submitting an article about your experience at the event.

At our last meeting we discussed the current status of Poorman's and what still needs to be done. We are always looking for volunteers to help out. If interested in helping please contact Poorman's Autocrat. We voted on purchasing some more 6 mile walkie talkies for use during our events. The vote was passed to purchase four additional walkie-talkies.

If anyone has something they wish to be discussed at the next meeting please contact me at my home number, e-mail me, or post a question on the Falcon's Keep Message Board.

The next business meeting will be at North Park on Sun. July 22, 1pm.

YIS

Lady Mary, Seneschal of Falcon's Keep

Cover credit:

Lord Torgeir of Falcon's Keep

The Chronicler's Quill



Greetings onto the folk of the shire of Falcon's Keep,

First I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Mewsletter in June and July. We have been able to add 4 more pages filled with arts and sciences, information for newcomers and the return of Eve's book reviews. The "Ask Alex" column is a great addition and I urge people to submit questions that are of interest to a wide range of people. I especially thank Lord Torgeir for providing the art for this month's cover. Please keep up the good work! I still need more persona stories for "Folk of the Shire", more artwork for covers and filler, and anything else you wish to see in print.

The kickoff of the Brewers, Vintners and Cooking Guild at the June Moot was a lot of fun despite the inclement weather. We would like to thank all who attended and especially THR Herr Janvier for the meadmaking class and demo (see Baron Guttorm's article pages 8-9).

The July moot will be held at the Poor Man's site on July 22. It will be a good opportunity for last minute preparation. (see page 13). There will be a newcomers' moot and garb workshop at Alessandro's on July 1. Anyone who wants help with simple garb is welcome (see page 14).

If you do not yet subscribe to the Mewsletter, it is never too late. This year's Mewsletter is available at reduced subscription prices of \$10 for paper and \$5 for electronic (prorated for issues missed). (We must bill for both electronic and paper since both help to support the required copies to royalty and corporate officers). Subscriptions should be sent to the Exchequer.

Yours in service, ealasaid

Anachronist's Bookshelf

Karen Harper is an author of some very fine Elizabeth I Mysteries. These mysteries have her maids, close friends and consolors busy solving crimes.

The Hooded Hawke takes place while Queen Elizabeth was on progress, the summer of 1569. Harper uses the known facts of the progress to build her tale of intrigue. The then little known Capitan Francis Drake's movements are unknown during that same summer. Using these historical facts Harper has woven a fascinating mystery concerning them both.

If I had found on the New Bookshelf two books by the same author written in the 80's I would not have bothered to pick them up due to the titles.

Passion's Reign Which was written in 1983. It was recently released under the title a more likely title of *The Last Boleyn*. This book gives the reader a look into the life of Mary Boleyn. Mary was sent at the tender age of eight to the French court as part of Mary Tudor's entourage. Mary was allowed to stay with The Princess Mary when the rest of the ladies were sent back to England. Mary Boleyn survival at both the French Court and the English Court of Henry VIII is something not even the writers of modern day writers of TV soap operas could come up with.

Sweet Passion's Pain written in 1984 tells of the trials and tribulations of the Fair Maid of Kent. Joan lived 1328-1385 *The First Princess of Wales* was released in 2006. Both books turned out to be well researched Historical Novels

Lady Eve of Lynn



Making a Leather Stamp out of Metal

By THL Anna z Pernstejna

Stamping designs into leather was a skill that was used in at least one part of the middle ages. Leather belt finds from 14C & 15C London show distinct repetitive figures, shapes and words stamped onto them. So how can we in the modern middle ages use this skill?

If one were making a simple geometric design, a stamp could be made by carving a small block of fine-grained hardwood, such as maple. But to get the intricate detail of an animal figure, or for a stamp that will withstand uncountable uses, metal is the preferred material. While it is certainly possible to stamp or file a design into a block of iron, I was searching for a quicker method. Medieval leatherworkers didn't make their tools of sculpty clay and J B Weld, but they didn't have sewing machines either.

I ended up turning to clay as my initial medium as it is easy to work with to get the detailing correct. Take a small square of Sculpty Clay. Work it into a disc shape, about 1 1/2" in diameter, and flatten it with the bottom of a flat cup to about 1/4" thick. A rolling pin will not work as it will slightly dome your surface, resulting in more sanding. Place your paper pattern on the clay and gently draw the outlines with a modeler. The pattern should be small, no more than 3/4". Start shaping the clay by cutting on the outline with a sharp object (I used a straightened curtain hanger pin, but a sewing needle will work, too.) Gently scrape clay away from the design background, only removing about 1/16" of material. Then use your pin and a modeler to form and shape the design. When you are satisfied with the look of the design, make a perfect circle around it, removing any excess clay outside of the circle. Transfer the clay to a piece of aluminum foil and bake it in a 275 degree oven for 5 minutes.

While the clay is cooling, cut 1 1/4" strips from cereal box cardboard and plastic from the smooth part of a pop bottle, about 3/8" longer than the circumference of the clay piece. Pour

cooking oil over the clay design, making sure all the detail marks are covered, then turn the piece upside down on a paper towel to drain excess oil. Wrap the cardboard tightly around the clay disc, lining up the bottom of the cardboard with the bottom of the disc, and tape into place, making sure to criss cross tape across the bottom. Now curl the strip of plastic and insert it inside the cardboard tube, so it touches the clay disc but doesn't interfere with the design. Mix a half batch of J.B. Weld according to instructions and scoop it into your mold. Place the head of a ½" x 3" bolt in the center of the liquid, making sure it is well covered. Hold in place until it starts to firm up, then you can tape the bolt shaft in place until it has hardened. After 4 hours, remove all the tape, the cardboard, and the plastic.

Carefully take a small headed flat screwdriver and start flaking the clay away from the metal. Be careful as the metal is still soft at this stage and may be easily marked. Remove as much of the material as you can, then start using your modeler or pin to clean up the details. As the piece hardens, you can soak it in water to soften any remaining clay, then brush it or pick at it with the pin. Use a metal file to flatten the surface. (Use a dust mask to keep from breathing any of the metal dust in.) Quick shaping of the stamp to remove excess metal around the design can be done on a bench grinder (Dust mask!) but final shaping and smoothing should be done with hand files. Round and angle the edges of the stamp. Scrub the stamp with soapy water to remove any traces of oil or dust. Now you're ready to stamp!



Brewer's Vintners & Cooks

Sunday, June 3, we held our the first Brewers and Vintners/Cookery Guild meeting at the SCA monthly moot, where Janvier showed us how he makes his mead. The new members appeared to be interested in mead making.

Janvier's recipe is 3 lbs of honey per gallon, oranges for yeast nutrients, four cans of grape concentrate, and water, 1 part honey to 3 parts water, to make 5 gallons of mead. He uses Montrachet yeast. The honey and water are heated to drive off the wax and other solids left in the honey, then he adds the grape concentrate when the honey water has cooled, racks into fermentation vessels, adds yeast, installs a fermentation lock, then waits until the fermentation is complete, and finally bottle.

Our next expedition is to the Little Ole Wine Shop in Wausau tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoon, July 15.

Then in September, after coronation, we plan to travel to the Mitchell vineyard, and the Wine and Hop Shop. Here is the link to the website of the Mitchell vineyard near Madison where we can pick grapes. <http://www.wineandhop.com/mitchellVinyard.shtml> Let me know what you think about this vineyard, whether you want to participate in a trip there, and what day we should go (I assume either Sat or Sun in Sept after coronation).

Our next meeting of the Brewers and Vintners/Cookery Guild will be at the Oct Moot where Alex will talk about how she makes cordials. We have two more projects in the works. One is a research paper comparing modern to medieval winemaking techniques (in part to provide documentation when we enter SCA competitions). The other possible project, an out growth of a discussion Janvier and I had about ancient winemaking, is to compare fermentation and storage vessels, which would include amphorae, oak casks, and glass. This last project might take place next year if we can find amphorae and reasonably priced oak casks.

Baron Guttorm

Please note my new email address:

owenchristianson@fibernetcc.com



Janvier is racking the mead started at the moot



Janvier bottling his dandyion wine

Ask Alex

The SCA sounds really interesting, but I don't have much money. Can I still participate?



Definitely yes! While it is possible to spend hundreds of dollars on garb, armor and camping equipment, it is not necessary. While formal events have an entry fee and a non-member surcharge, we have several different ways you can get started without spending anything but time and possibly gas money.

The Shire of Falcons Keep has monthly meetings called moots. They move around to the various areas in the Shire, and there is no cost. We normally start out with a business meeting, and then there is a pot luck lunch. If you are just starting and don't know what to bring, a loaf of bread or some fruit are always welcome. After everyone has eaten, we do something. Some of our past projects included making mead, sewing shire badges & getting things ready for our next event. Many people car pool when these moots are out of town. If you need a ride, the Chatelaine, listed in the directory, can help you find someone who might be able to give you a lift.

The Shire also has a supply of loaner garb. We have different kinds of garb for men, women and children of various sizes. It is mostly simple garb that will fit a range of sizes, but it will fit in at any event or gathering. The purpose of the loaner garb is for new people to use until they no longer need it. There are also several people in the shire who are willing to lend garb for special occasions, or for a specific size. Speaking of garb, if you are interested in making your own, Wal-Mart regularly has fabric for \$1 a yard, and the fabric stores in the area have sales quite often. Don't worry if you don't have a sewing machine or have never sewn before, there are plenty of people that can help you out. In fact, one of the next newcomers meetings is on how

to make simple garb. We will have machines there and plenty of assistance to get you started.

If you are interested in fighting, we have complete sets of loaner equipment for rapier, and, on a more limited basis, armored combat armor and swords. Fighter practices are held weekly. You do not have to be a national member to participate, but you do have to sign a liability waiver. If you are over 18, we have marshals who can train you and help you get your own armor made.

If you don't want to rely on loaner stuff, you are in luck! Many of the items we look for and use, are the things non-SCA people are trying to get rid of. I have accumulated lots of feast gear and drinking vessels at Goodwill, Saint Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army for very low cost. Summer is the time for garage sales, and they can be a treasure trove for us. I have found pewter tankards, goblets, plates, bowls, fabric, candles, baskets, embroidery supplies and much more from these sources.

When it comes to camping, everyone wants to have a period pavilion and Viking chairs. While this is something to strive for, it is not very practical for many people, especially individuals and families on a budget. At every event I have ever been at, there have been more modern tents than there are period tents. I even know of one person who just brought a hammock and a sleeping bag. I also know of several people who have extra tents. If you ask around, you may be able to borrow one for an event.

Please do not let lack of funds stop you from participating. We have all been where you are, and would love to let you know where to find the 'good deals'. The Chatelaine is there to help get you started. It is possible to learn and have fun on a shoestring budget.

Alex

Tune in next time for the answers to more questions. If you have anything you don't understand or feel uncomfortable asking someone, sent it to me at terris@tznet.com" terris@tznet.com

CALENDAR

July 2007

- 5-8 Warriors and Warlords XIV [Jararvellir-Cadott, WI]
- 21-23 Rabid Yale Hunt VIII [Coldedernhale-White River, SD]
- 14 BOD Meeting[Nordskogen, Minneapolis, MN]
- 21 River Revel II Oeneach [Stromfels-River Falls, WI]
- 27-Aug 12 Pennsic War 36 [Aethelmearc, Slippery Rock, PA]

August 2007

- 3-5 Poor Man's Pennsic [Falcon's Keep, Pittsville, WI]
- 11 Northern Lakes Regional Moot & Fighter Practice
[Inner Sea Superior, WI]
- 17-19 BYOM V [Vilku Urvas- Deer River, MN]
- 17-19 Woodland Romp V [Skerjastrond- Gwinn, MI]
- 31-3 A Viking Odyssey-Love on the Fjords! [Castel Rouge, MB]
- 31-Sep 2 Autumn Rose [Rokeclif-Galesville, WI]

September 2007

- 8 Northshield Fall Coronation [Falcon's Keep-Wisc Rapids, WI]
- 13-16 CeCil's Siege III [Svatý Sebesta - Vermillion, SD]
- 21-23 Siege the Day III [Shattered Oak-Hixton, WI]
- 29 30th Baronial Birthday [Windhaven=Green Bay, WI]

October 2007

- 6 Reapers Revel [Rockwall-Johnson, WI]
- 13 Fall Crown Tournament [Noiregarde-Lead SD]
- 27 Masquerade II [Dreibruken-Bismarck, ND]

November 2007

- 16-18 Fogmoon (A Norse Event)[Silfren Mere-altura MN]
- 30-Dec2 Known World Academy of Rapier [Nordskogen-Mpls MN]

December 2007

- Boar's Head-A Boar's Tale [Caer Antherth Mawr-West Bend WI]

Fighter practices for Rapier and Armored will rotate between Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and Wausau. Please see the website for details. (Practices at UWSP will resume in the fall)

July Moot & Poor Man's Preparation

July 22, 2007 1pm

North Wood County Park, Pittsville WI

Please bring dishes, lawnchairs and a dish to pass.

From the West: Find your best route to Hwy. 94, south. Take the Osseo Hwy. 10 exit east. Follow Hwy. 10 east till just outside of Marshfield where you will come to County Trunk A. Turn South on County Trunk A and continue south for about 5 miles till you see the sign for the park on the right, go past on the curve to the second entrance, with the SCA sign. Please enter there.

From the East: Find your best route to Hwy 51/39 and take the Hwy.10 exit west. Continue on Hwy. 10 through Auburndale and watch for the junction with Cty. Trunk A. Turn South or left on Cty. Trunk A and watch for the signs for the park on your right about 5 miles south. Go around the curve to the second entrance with the SCA sign, Please enter there.

From the North: find your best route to Hwy 51/39 or Hwy 13 South and follow them to south to Hwy 10 exit, then see above.

From the South: find your best route to Hwy 80 and take it north to Pittsville. Continue through Pittsville and at the junction of Hwy 80 and Hwy 13 go straight onto Cty Trunk A take Cty Trunk A north about 5 miles to the entrance with the SCA sign on the left side of the road. Please enter there.

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

Newcomers' Moot and Garb Workshop

at the home of Lord Alessandro and Lady Mary

Sunday July 1 at 1pm

Getting Started on Garb

In the SCA we refer to medieval clothing as “garb” because it is what we wear; it is not a “costume” such as that worn by an actor so we want to be sure it is wearable. For the first garb gathering we will talk about simple ways to cut a tunic or gown to your measurements without the need for a pattern. It will be a rather generic style which would fit in throughout Europe from the 6th to 13th centuries and could also be considered as a shirt or chemise under later period fashions. We can also talk about how to make this simple design look more like clothing worn in a specific region or time period or by a specific class of people. All are welcome to come and listen and learn, but if you want to be able to get started on your own tunic or gown, please note the materials suggested below:

Fabric, please prewash if you don't want shrinkage. Women need 3 yards of 45 inch and men need 2 yards minimum, but for either gender if you want the chest more than 40 inches you must either get 60 inch fabric or increase the yardage by at least 50%. In period you would probably be using wool, linen or silk so it should look like one of those even if you get cotton or synthetic for washability or to save money. Most colors can be used (natural dyes are really quite versatile), bright colors, especially purples and reds are a way to show off your wealth. Plaids, stripes and woven in patterns are great but try to avoid prints (unless they really look embroidered or woven) and knits. You will want thread to match your fabric, and a tape measure, pair of scissors sharp enough to cut fabric, a needle for hand sewing (I can show you period ways to make a strong seam even if you have no experience), and a sewing machine if you have it.

For directions, call Alessandro 715-297-0718.

Officers of Falcon's Keep

Seneschal: Mary of Falcon's Keep (MKA Mary Welker)
 104 Florence St, Wausau, WI
 715-297-0718 venom@charter.net

Deputy Seneschal: Lord Justinian

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn Harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)
 851 East Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470
 715-427-0402 grimr_fairhair@yahoo.com

Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Isabeau of Winter Rose (MKA Alyce Knutson)
 3230 Reber Dr, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 715-421-0953 3230knut@tznet.com

Deputy Exchequer: Maebh de Blancheville

Knights Marshall: Thomas of Falcon's Keep
 kloudbirst@yahoo.com

Marshall of Fence:
 THLady Alexandra der Wasserman (MKA Terri Harteau)
 623 N Ash Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449
 715-384-9298 terris@tznet.com

Marshall of Archery: vacant

Minister of Arts & Sciences:
 Rawnie de Douglas (MKA Ronda Douglas)
 161 5th St N, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 715-254-9106 benronda@charter.net

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: Oz the Baker

Minister of Youth: vacant

Chronicler:
 Mistress Ealasaic nic Phearsoinn (MKA Elspeth Christianson)
 C3808 Heartland Hills Rd, Stratford, WI 54484
 715-687-4870 mcpherson@starband.net

Deputy Chronicler: Lady Emily Ambrose

Chatelaine: Alessandro of Falcon's Keep (MKA Jason Welker)
 104 Florence St, Wausau, WI
 715-297-0718 chaosgeneral@charter.net

Deputy Chatelaines: Lord Gabriel Michalik

Web Minister: Lady Reina Gunnora (MKA Raynee Randall)
 1934 Eva Rd Apt 5, Mosinee, WI 54455
 715-572-3079 reina_gunnora@yahoo.com

Deputy Web Minister: Guinevere Aloisia of Falcon's Keep

The Mewsletter
Elspeth Christianson
C3808 Heartland Hills Road
Stratford, WI 54484

July 2007